***Press* Release**

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Weather changes with The Times

The Times has chosen The Met. Office to supply page-ready weather reports for its daily feature.

The contract was awarded after a competitive trial between PA WeatherCentre and International Weather Productions (IWP), The Met. Office's media unit.

The first page-ready reports were produced and published in January. From now on IWP will produce the forecasts and data at the London Television Centre, then compile the panel and send it in electronic format direct to News International.

Roger Wood, Deputy Managing Editor of The Times, said "It was felt that it was far more efficient to have weather reports sent to us so that they could be dropped straight into the page. In our trial, we found that The Met. Office supply system easily met our criteria and that IWP was extremely competitive on price.

"Weather reports first appeared in The Times in 1875 and The Met. Office has supplied the raw data since that time. I am pleased to be maintaining a very long and fruitful relationship."

Rex Roskilly, Head of IWP at The Met. Office added, "We have a long history of supplying weather data to the print and broadcast media. Strengthening the relationship with The Times is in line with our continuing goals to develop this area of our commercial business."

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